

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for operating a cruise control system for a vehicle, comprising:

means for separating a travel of the accelerator pedal into two parts,

5 depression of the pedal being less in the first travel part than in the second travel part,

depressing the pedal in the first travel part engaging the cruise control system, and

10 a pull-back force of the pedal being smaller in the first travel part than in the second travel part.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the second travel part controls the acceleration of the vehicle.

3. A device according to claim 1, wherein the means for separating the travel of the accelerator pedal into two parts comprises a first support forming
15 an upper face of the accelerator pedal and a second support rigidly linked to an arm of the accelerator pedal whose motion activates the acceleration of the vehicle, the first support being mobile with respect to the second support according to a pull-back force smaller than a pull-back force associated with the arm.

20 4. A device according to claim 3, wherein the pull-back force of the first support is created by at least one pull-back spring placed between the first and second supports to hold the first support upward when there is no pressure exerted by the driver on the first support.

25 5. A device according to claim 3, further comprising a sensor placed between an inner face of the first support and the second support, the sensor creating a piece of information to start up the system by detection of motion of the first support with respect to the second support.

6. A device according to claim 5, wherein the sensor comprises a push-button selector switch.

30 7. A device according to claim 3, wherein the first support is extended perpendicularly towards the second support to guide its motion with respect to the second support.

8. A device for operating a cruise control system for a vehicle, comprising means for separating a travel of an accelerator pedal into first and

second parts, depression of the pedal being less in the first travel part than in the second travel part, depressing the pedal in the first travel part engaging the cruise control system and a pull-back force of the pedal being smaller in the first travel part than in the second travel part;

5 wherein the second travel part controls the acceleration of the vehicle.